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**State Environment Department Announces 2003 Class Schedule For
Solid Waste Facility Operator Certification Training**

(Santa Fe, NM) – In an effort to help local governments and private businesses meet the waste-handling needs of communities and comply with state regulations, the New Mexico Environment Department is offering certification classes in composting, landfill, recycling, and transfer station facility operations.

The classes, designed primarily for individuals operating various solid waste management facilities, are also open to the general public. Attendees may become state-certified operators by successfully completing the class and meeting other experience requirements.

The classes, which cost from \$75 to \$200, offer participants the opportunity to acquire the best and most current information on solid waste management practices. Course instructors include Environment Department staff, private sector owners and operators, as well as other state agency staff. Each of the 3- and 5-day courses concludes with an examination. Attendees desiring certification must score at least 70 percent on the examination.

The 2003 schedule includes the following classes:

Compost Facility	April 1-3	Albuquerque
	October 28-30	Albuquerque
Landfill	March 3-7	Hobbs
	September 8-12	Rio Rancho
Recycling Facility	June 24-26	Ruidoso
	December 9-11	Albuquerque
Transfer Station	May 6-8	Grants
	October 21-23	Artesia

more

Solid Waste Classes

Classes are taught in cooperation with two non-profit solid waste organizations.

The New Mexico Recycling Coalition (NMRC) sponsors the compost and recycling classes. Registration forms and specific class details are available by contacting Nancy Judd, Executive Director, NMRC at (505) 983-4470 or through the NMRC web site at www.nmrecycle.org.

The Roadrunner Chapter of the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) sponsors the landfill and transfer station classes. Registration forms and specific class details are available by contacting Ellen Smyth, Training Chairman, SWANA Roadrunner Chapter, at (505) 528-3800 or through the Roadrunner Chapter web site at www.nmswana.com.

For more information contact Charles R. Ferguson, in the NMED Solid Waste Bureau, Technical Assistance Program, at (505) 762-3728 or Jon Goldstein, NMED Communications Director, at (505) 827-0314.

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